27th February 1956]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The rules under section 43 (1) of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, have been finalized and published at pages 1 to 30 of Rules Supplement to Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th January 1956.

* 3120 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 1739 given on 31st March 1955 whether the rules under the Plantations Labour Act have been finalized?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 3119 by Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Sir, may I know whether the wages of these labourers have been regulated in the past by a statute of the Government or whether the Government propose to regulate the wages on the basis of a Minimum Wages Ordinance prevalent in other tea plantations?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The question of wages is before a Special Tribunal which is considering it.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : May I know what steps have been taken by the Government to implement the rules framed under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government propose to appoint some additional special staff to attend to the implementation of the rules.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : சர்க்கார் பிரசுரித்திருக்கும் இந்தத் தோட்டத் தொழிலாளர்களின் விதிகள் சர்க்காரால் நடத்தப்படும் சின்கோனு பிளான்டேஷனில் வேலே செய்யும் தொழிலாளர்களுக்குப் பொருந்துமா? அல்லது அவர்களுக்கு விதிவிலக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : These rules will apply to all plantations including Cinchona which is run by Government.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Sir, am I to take it that there is no minimum wage rate in Madras and that the function of the Tribunal is in the form of an *ad hoc* function?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the Tribunal will take up the question whenever there are disputes.

Tellicherry Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Society

* 3121 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP (on behalf of Dr. K. B. Menon) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Tellicherry Producers'*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society has applied for conversion into a Rural Bank and